

One thing I learned from Bruce King was how important it is to stay in touch with the people you represent. In fact, I first met the Governor in the steer barn at the Lea County Fair. And over the years, it seemed that you would run across the Governor shaking hands at nearly every Fair in New Mexico.

It meant his handshake was as good as his word.

It meant that when he had to make tough choices he stuck by them even when that meant that he had to make sacrifices.

You know, when I ran for Congress, I kept telling voters that I was running to put New Mexico families first in everything I did. Governor King did that when he created the Children Youth and Families department in New Mexico that looks after the wellbeing of our children and our loved ones. He put New Mexico families first because in a lot ways the people of New Mexico were his family.

Governor King's service to our nation and our state should never be forgotten. As a County Commissioner, Speaker of the House and as Governor, he was one of those unique public officials who never forgot where he came from. He listened sincerely to the needs and concerns of his constituents and then got to work addressing those issues because he cared deeply about the state of New Mexico.